WHIRRAKEE

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
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Office Bearers for 2015 - 2016

President	*vacant*	
Vice President	Alistair White	0419 613 737
Secretary/Public Officer	Matt Comer	0409 162 627
Treasurer	Ben Goonan	

Positions delegated by the Committee

Minute Secretary	Anne Bridley (for general meetings)	
Excursion sub-committee	**John Lindner**, Simon Hay, Richard Goonan	**5448 3406**
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	
Librarian	**Diana Collier**, Jess Milroy	**5443 0137**
Garden sub-committee	Kerrie Norris, Jess Milroy	
Observations coordinator	Jenny Shield	
Supper coordinators	Alistair White, Jess Milroy	
Hall management sub-committee	**Maurie Lewis**, Rob & Glenise Moors, Ben Goonan	**0407427179**
Whirrakee sub-committee	Sabine Wilkens, Alistair White, John McCallum, Ben Goonan	
Whirrakee contact/editor	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797
Whirrakee mailing coordinator	Jenny Shield	
Website sub-committee	Ben Goonan, **John McCallum**	**54439347**

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $40; Family $50; Concession: Single $35; Family $40. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $40.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with members sharing their recent natural history observations. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Diana Collier, Devi Shanty, Simon Hay, John McCallum, Richard Goonan, Karen Thomas, Jess Milroy

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5442 6188 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5442 6188. To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

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Vol. 36, No. 10, November 2015

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*), which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
The next naturalists workshop	Matthew Comer	3
Animal selfies for science – volunteer activities	via Karen Thomas	3
Colour photos	various contributors	4-7
2015 Spring Campout at Mt Samaria: report, plant and animal lists	Aaron Hall and Matt Comer	8
(2nd) White Wattlebird Observation	Tom Burton	10
two other small interesting articles…		10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions should be posted or e-mailed to the editor at least two days prior to the last Wednesday of the month. They will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although space restrictions occasionally require shortening of articles or holding them over till the following edition of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
The last club excursion for the year is over, and from what I have heard, the Mt Samaria camp went really well, even though attendance numbers were quite low. Thanks to Aaron Hall for the photos and the report. An alternative was provided for Bendigo bound people at John Robinson's place and Joy Clusker has provided some photos from that. Can anybody name the un-identified Eremophila species on page 4? If not, there is a perfect workshop for you in November, see the notice on page 3. As there are no other excursions planned for the rest of the year, I want to thank the excursion committee and especially John Lindner for the meticulous planning and preparation of the excursions and making sure people get maximum information and interest from them.

Front page photograph: Pictured is the intrepid Hall family (Nita, Ning and Aaron) on their way up Mt Samaria during the October club camp out. I thought Aaron had taken the photo, but as he is in it, I am unsure who the photographer is (Matt Comer?). A short report (page 8) and more photos are on pages 5 and 6.

Short Notices

Naturalists Workshops

Over the coming year the club will be running a series of Naturalist Workshops specifically designed to develop participants' proficiency across a broad range of field based naturalist skills and knowledge. They will be designed to cater for a wide range of abilities and will use a participatory/interactive model where participants learn from one another in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Workshop 2: The Myoporaceae family in Central Victoria, including local species of *Myoporum* and *Eremophila*.

There are seven or so species of plants from this group occurring in Central Victoria. We will look at their botanical features, identification, ecology, propagation and cultivation.

Presenter: Matt Comer

Date: 25/11/15
Time: 7:00pm, meeting room- Golden Square Hall.

RSVP: Please register your interest via info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au or by post to PO Box 396 Bendigo VIC 3552

What to bring: Field guides, hand lens, note book and pen.

More information:
info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au

Register of First Aiders

Thanks to the work of Devi Shanti, the committee is in an advanced stage of preparing a Risk Management Plan. The draft plan requires a first aider for each outdoor activity. If you are willing to help, please see page 3 in the September *Whirrakee*.

Animal selfies for science – how you can help

via Karen Thomas

It is easy to assume that our favourite Australian native animals will always be around, but despite seeming relatively common, they could be in decline. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is running a project called WildCount to get a better understanding of how the animals are faring over time.
Every Autumn, WildCount uses 300 motion-sensitive cameras across 146 NSW National parks and reserves to take a snapshot of wildlife living in these areas. The images are used to determine what native and pest animals are present and how their conservation status might change over time. **Now we are now looking for people to help us sort through this vast number of 'animal selfies' so we can process the images much faster than we've been able to alone**. To get involved all you need to do is record information about what you see in each image. For more information about WildCount visit our dedicated web page:
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/wildcount.htm

A recent post on the related volunteering web page (see below) thanked current volunteers and stated the following:
WildCount expeditions will be temporarily out of action while the team analyse the data to look for accuracy of species identification and presence absence. We'll also be gearing up for the next field season which starts in March 2016.We are aiming to be back up and running on the DigiVol site by June 2016- with new images for DigiVol citizen scientists to process. Have a look at this page, it has a lot of interesting work done by volunteers so far…
http://volunteer.ala.org.au/institution/index/8062528

So keep tuned.

October (alternative) club excursion to John Robinson's place at Strathfieldsaye on the 18th of October
Photographs by Joy Clusker

Right: Bardi grub larval case. Wikipedia states that the term bardi grub appears to have originally been used for larvae of the longhorn beetle (*Bardistus cibarius*), but fisherman along the Murray River more often applied the term to certain hepialid moth larvae. They live about 60cm below ground and feed on roots of River Red Gums and Black wattle

...when they emerge, they leave these interesting larval skins behind

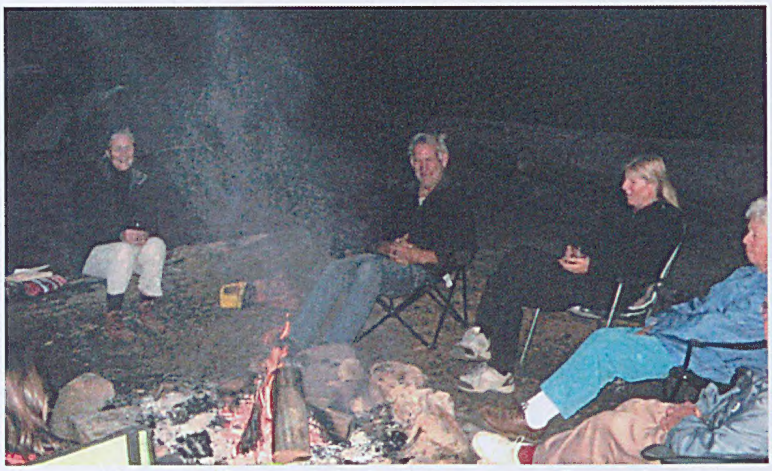
Acacia aspera, Rough Wattle

Below, left: *Eremophila* sp. (?)
right: *Eremophila longifolia*

October club excursion to Mt Samaria
18th October (see report page 8)

Left: *Leucochrysum albicans*- Hoary Sunray. It was growing by the roadside at a prominent hairpin bend on the main road in the forest. It was occupying an open, sunny and rocky natural clearing in the forest. (photographer: Matt Comer)

Below: marvellous tall trees – what a great setting for a picnic break…



Above: a fire at night is the essence of camping

Below: on the way up the mountain

The top of the mountain has everything: rocky outcrops, stunning views, flowering plants, sunshine, nice people…

Other October nature aspects

Below: from Nuggety, near Maldon, Austral bugle, early October (Photographer: Joy Clusker)

Above: This big baby was perched between fence boards in Strathdale on the 2nd October. Its parents were feeding a noisy nestling high up in a Lemon-scented Gum, but I didn't see them come near this one. I know it is a Grey Currawong, but haven't seen such a young one before. (text and photograph: G. Moors).

Above: Karen Thomas (photographer) thinks these two are the parents of 3 babies in a nearby box

Right: White Wattlebird (2nd one seen this year) photographed by Tom Burton, see text on page 10.

2015 Spring Campout at Mt. Samaria report by Aaron Hall

The campout was organized by John Lindner who was unable to attend due to family commitments. A week and a half before the campout, I rung John to register our intention of attending, only to be told that no one else had done likewise and that he could not attend, which meant that at that stage it was just us. Me, my wife and our daughter. Had the Bendigo field naturalists become armchair naturalists? The overnight camp usually only happens once a year. Fear not said John, some more people are bound to come, and anyway, the Bendigo bushwalkers were having a walk, same place, same time, so soldier on. And he was right, a week later we had 8 members with a couple of Bendigo bushwalkers tacked on for good measure. Matt and Bill provided the expertise and it all went extremely well. Lots of bonhomie around the camp and on the walks, and a great park to explore. The highlights being the falls (water), Greater gliders, which were numerous, Satin bower birds, and some elephants, heard but not seen. Thanks to John for organizing it (and other outings) which helps keep the "field" in the field naturalists.

Plant List: via Matt Comer

Apiaceae
Hydrocotyle laxiflora- Stinking Pennywort
Asteraceae
Bedfordia arborescens- Blanket Leaf
Brachyscome sp.- Daisy
Cassinia aculeata- Dogwood
Cassinia longifolia- Shiny Cassinia
Chrysocephalum semipapposum- Clustered Everlasting
Craspedia variabilis- Common Billy Buttons
Helichrysum scorpioides- Rough Everlasting
Leucochrysum albicans- Hoary Sunray
Microseris sp.- Yam Daisy
Olearia argophylla- Musk Daisy Bush
Olearia lirata- Snow Daisy Bush
Senecio pinnatifolius- Variable Groundsel
Brunoniaceae
Brunonia australis- Blue Pincushion
Campanulaceae
Isotoma axillaris- Showy Isotome
Caryophyllaceae
Stellaria pungens
Cyperaceae
Cyperus sp.- Sedge
Gahnia sieberiana- Red-Fruit Saw-Sedge
Dennstaedtiaceae
Pteridium esculentum- Bracken
Dicksoniaceae
Dicksonia antarctica- Soft Tree-Fern
Dillenaceae
Hibbertia sp. X2- Guinea Flower
Epacridaceae
Acrotriche prostrata- Trailing Ground Berry
Acrotriche serrulata- Honey-Pots
Epacris sp. Heath
Leucopogon virgatus- Common Beard-Heath
Fabaceae
Daviesia leptophylla- Leafy Bitter-Pea
Daviesia ulicifolia- Gorse Bitter-Pea
Glycine clandestina- Twining Glycine
Hardenbergia violacea- Sarsparilla
Indigofera australis- Austral Indigo
Platylobium formosum- Handsome Flat-Pea
Pultenaea scabra- Rough Bush-Pea
Geraniaceae
Geranium sp. Native Geranium
Pelargonium australe- Austral Stork's Bill
Goodeniaceae
Goodenia sp.
Lamiaceae
Ajuga australis- Austral Bugle
Prostanthera lasianthos- Victorian Christmas Bush
Liliaceae
Arthropodium sp.- Vanilla Lily
Bulbine sp- Bulbine Lily
Dianella tasmanica- Tasman Flax Lily
Thysanotus patersonii- Twining Fringe Lily
Wurmbea dioica- Early Nancy
Mimosaceae
Acacia dealbata- Silver Wattle
Acacia melanoxylon- Blackwood
Acacia pravissima- Ovens Wattle
Myrtaceae
Calytrix tetragona- Common Fringe Myrtle
Eucalyptus dives- Broad- Leaf Peppermint
Eucalyptus globulus ssp. bicostata- Blue Gum
Eucalyptus goniocalyx- Long-Leaf Box
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha- Red Stringybark
Eucalyptus obliqua- Messmate
Eucalyptus radiata- Narrow-Leaf Peppermint

Eucalyptus viminalis- Manna Gum
Kunzea sp.- Burgan
Leptospermum continentale- Prickly Tea-Tree
Orchidaceae
Caladenia sp. Pink Fingers
Chiloglottis sp.- Common Bird Orchid
Pterostylis sp. Greenhood Orchid
Pittosporaceae
Bursaria spinosa- Sweet Bursaria
Polygalaceae
Comesperma volubile- Love Creeper
Proteaceae
Grevillea alpina- Cat's Claw Grevillea
Ranunculaceae
Clematis aristata- Old Man's Beard
Ranunculus sp x2- Buttercup
Rhamnaceae
Pomaderris aspera- Hazel Pomaderris
Pomaderris sp.
Spyridium parvifolium- Dusty Miller
Rosaceae
Acaena novaezelandiae- Bidgee-Widgee
Rubiaceae
Rubus parvifolius- Native Raspberry
Asperula sp.- Woodruff
Coprosma hirtella
Coprosma quadrifida- Currant Bush
Rutaceae
Correa lawrenciana- Mountain Correa
Correa reflexa- Common Correa
Santalaceae
Exocarpus cupressiformis- Cherry Ballart
Sapindaceae
Dodonaea viscosa- Hop-bush
Scrophulariaceae
Derwentia perfoliata- Digger's Speedwell
Gratiola peruviana- Austral Brooklime
Stackhousiaceae
Stackhousia monogyna- Creamy Candles
Stylidiaceae
Stylidium graminifolium- Grass Trigger Plant
Thymelaeaceae
Pimelea axiflora- Bootlace Bush
Tremandraceae
Tetratheca sp x2- Pink Bells
Urticaceae
Urtica incisa- Scrub Nettle
Violaceae
Viola betonicifolia- Showy Violet
Viola hederacea- Ivy Leaved Violet

Xanthorrhoeaceae
Lomandra longifolia- Spiny-Headed Mat-Rush
Xanthorrhoea minor- Small Grass-Tree

Bird List:
Australian Kestrel
Wonga Pigeon
Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoo
Gang Gang Cockatoo
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
Australian King Parrot
Crimson Rosella
Fan-Tailed Cuckoo
Southern Boobook
Laughing Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher
Superb Lyrebird
White-Throated Tree-Creeper?
Superb Fairy-Wren
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
White-Browed Scrub-Wren
Red Wattlebird
Yellow-Faced Honeyeater
White-Eared Honeyeater
White-Naped Honeyeater
Eastern Spinebill
Eastern Whipbird
Flame Robin
Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey Shrike-Thrush
Golden Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Grey Fantail
Satin Bowerbird
Black-Faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Pied Currawong
White-Winged Chough
Silvereye

Mammals
Greater Glider
Echidna
Black Wallaby

White Wattlebird observation
by Tom Burton

This is the second white Red Wattlebird to fledge at our village this year (Rowville, Melbourne). One fledged in March, and was still flying about here in August. This one is very new. Its tail is only about half-length. Not that unlike an albino, it has dark eyes, and there is a blush of yellow feathers on the belly. I doubt that this is an offspring of the other white bird, which would be too young to have mated successfully. Much more likely, this is a sibling of the March bird. The photo was taken about 25 m from our front door, and about the same distance from the grevilleas in which the elder white bird was always to be found feeding.
The dark mark on the side of the head is the beginning of the red wattle of bare flesh, which grows longer as a RWB ages.

Parrots vs possums on ABC Catalyst (20th October 2015)

The swift parrot is one of Australia's most charismatic birds, but it is also one of its most endangered. Each year every swift parrot in the nation flies south to Tasmania to breed. Logging and land-clearing have decimated their habitat but conservation biologist Dejan Stojanovic has made the startling discovery of why the swift parrot numbers are plummeting so rapidly… they are being eaten by the deceptively sweet sugar glider. In a race against time, Dejan and his team have raised $70,000 through social media to build nesting boxes to save the bird. Catalyst reporter Mark Horstman joins the tree-climbing scientists in the spectacular Tasmanian wilderness as they deploy the first of 1000 boxes.

For more detail:
http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4335033.htm

Falcons on camera via Karen Thomas
The Falcon Camera project at Charles Sturt University (Orange campus) presents a fantastic opportunity to watch nest activities. Anyone can log into the camera and watch…
(Last I looked at it, October 28, the chicks were still white and fluffy…ed.)
http://www.csu.edu.au/special/falconcam/Streams/camera-one.htm

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Diary

All Club meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High St Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesday November 11 7.30pm
Our speaker for November is Mr. Robert McCormack. He will talk about 'Freshwater Crayfish of Victoria'.

Wednesday, December 8 6.00pm
Christmas Function (thus the earlier start).
Please bring a dish to share, sweet or savoury, and bring your own drinks. After the meal, listen to our final speaker of our 70th anniversary year, Eric Wilkinson, who will talk about 'Frank Robbins and his Eppalock glacial pavements researches'

Wednesday, February 9 7.30pm
First meeting for 2016.

Family Nature Club
The Nature Club activities will continue in 2015, so look out for announcements or check out their website.
Registration:
Bendigonatureclub@gmail.com or 5443-1326
http://bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com/

Bendigo Native Plant Group meeting.
All interested people are welcome to come along. Meeting starts at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month, Golden Square Senior Citizens Hall.
Next meeting: 17th November.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

WRIN meetings held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 1pm the Golden Square Senior Citizens Hall

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Australian Naturalists Network
The ANN Get-Together for 2016 (ANN16) will be held in Western Australia and hosted by the WA Naturalists' Club.
Please contact the ANN 2016 Committee and the secretary Margaret Larke by email at ANN16@wanaturalists.org.au; mlarke@iinet.net.au for more information.

Eltham Copper Butterfly Festival
5-8pm Saturday 7 November
Edendale 30 GastonsRd Eltham Melway22A1
Presented by Nillumbik Shire. Come and celebrate the wonderful story of the Eltham Copper Butterfly and the community effort spanning more than 25 years to protect this iconic species. There will be activities for children, music and plenty of space to spread out a picnic rug in the beautiful natural surrounds. Café Eden will also be open for coffee, cakes and ice creams.
Cost: Free Information: 03 9433 3316

Flora and Fauna of the Victorian and South Australian Mallee
A new guide to Flora & Fauna of the Mallee (mainly flora) by has recently been launched by Jocelyn Lindner. There is thirty years of work in it and it is more substantial at 266 pages than most of such guides. Well worth getting! 310 indigenous Mallee plant species
43 introduced species (weeds)
102 fauna and birds
Chapters on propagation, food and medicinal plants, remnant vegetation, the Mallee after fire and highway & roadside vegetation
What's in flower when? – a unique tool for identifying commonly observed Mallee plants
$40. Postage is $15 for 1 or 2 copies. Orders could be through email as well as the KowPlains website:
http://kowplains.com/books-for-sale/
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